

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 2405

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DATE
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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Transportation Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; allowing motorcycles to split lanes under certain
1.3 circumstances; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section
1.4 169.974, subdivision 5.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 169.974, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 5. **Driving rules.** (a) An operator of a motorcycle must ride only upon a permanent
1.8 and regular seat which is attached to the vehicle for that purpose. No other person shall ride
1.9 on a motorcycle, except that passengers may ride (1) upon a permanent and regular operator's
1.10 seat if designed for two persons, (2) upon additional seats attached to or in the vehicle, or
1.11 (3) in a sidecar attached to the vehicle. The operator of a motorcycle is prohibited from
1.12 carrying passengers in a number in excess of the designed capacity of the motorcycle or
1.13 sidecar attached to it. A passenger is prohibited from being carried in a position that interferes
1.14 with the safe operation of the motorcycle or the view of the operator.

1.15 (b) No person shall ride upon a motorcycle as a passenger unless the person can reach
1.16 the footrests or floorboards with both feet.

1.17 (c) Except for passengers of sidecars, drivers and passengers of three-wheeled
1.18 motorcycles, and persons in an autocycle, no person shall operate or ride upon a motorcycle
1.19 except while sitting astride the seat, facing forward, with one leg on either side of the
1.20 motorcycle.

1.21 (d) No person shall operate a motorcycle while carrying animals, packages, bundles, or
1.22 other cargo which prevent the person from keeping both hands on the handlebars.

(e) No person shall operate a motorcycle between lanes of moving or stationary vehicles headed in the same direction, nor shall any person drive a motorcycle abreast of or overtake or pass another vehicle within the same traffic lane, unless the operator of the motorcycle is traveling at not more than 40 miles per hour and no more than 15 miles per hour over the speed of traffic. Motorcycles may, with the consent of both drivers, be operated not more than two abreast in a single traffic lane if the vehicles fit safely within the designated space of the lane. An operator of a motor vehicle that intentionally impedes or attempts to prevent any operator of a motorcycle from operating a motorcycle as permitted under this paragraph is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

(f) Motor vehicles including motorcycles are entitled to the full use of a traffic lane and no motor vehicle may be driven or operated in a manner so as to deprive a motorcycle of the full use of a traffic lane.

(g) A person operating a motorcycle upon a roadway must be granted the rights and is subject to the duties applicable to a motor vehicle as provided by law, except as to those provisions which by their nature can have no application.

(h) Paragraph (e) of this subdivision does not apply to police officers in the performance of their official duties.

(i) No person shall operate a motorcycle on a street or highway unless the headlight or headlights are lighted at all times the motorcycle is so operated.

(j) A person parking a motorcycle on the roadway of a street or highway must:

(1) if parking in a marked parking space, park the motorcycle completely within the marked space; and

(2) park the motorcycle in such a way that the front of the motorcycle is pointed or angled toward the nearest lane of traffic to the extent practicable and necessary to allow the operator to (i) view any traffic in both directions of the street or highway without having to move the motorcycle into a lane of traffic and without losing balance or control of the motorcycle, and (ii) ride the motorcycle forward and directly into a lane of traffic when the lane is sufficiently clear of traffic.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2018.

Sec. 2. **PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.**

(a) The commissioner of transportation must implement a statewide public education campaign to alert drivers and the public on how motorcycles may safely pass a vehicle

3.1 between lanes. The information must be consistent with the requirements of Minnesota
3.2 Statutes, section 169.974, subdivision 5.

3.3 (b) \$..... is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of transportation
3.4 for the purposes of the public education campaign required in paragraph (a).

3.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2017.